

Annapolis Conservancy Board

Thursday, March 12, 2009, 5:30pm

City Council Chambers

Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

Jay Baldwin, Chair Tom Lippert, Vice Chair Joel Dunn

Gretchen Clift Karen Jennings David Fogle

Members Absent

Jon Chapman

Staff Present:

Steve Carr Tami Hook, Recorder

HOUSEKEEPING:

Review Minutes & Activities of Other City Boards

The minutes of other City boards were provided for review. Members were encouraged to submit any questions to Mr. Carr.

Annual Report

Mr. Carr provided copies of the final 2008 Annual Report for review and approval. Mr. Fogle moved approval of the 2008 Annual Report as submitted. Mr. Baldwin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously in a vote of 5-0. (Mr. Lippert was not present for the voting) The report has been shared with the Mayor and City Council but has not been shared with the Severn River Commission or Scenic River Land Trust.

Website

Mr. Baldwin noted that the Board's meeting dates and times are not posted on the website. Mr. Carr will check with Mr. Clark to ensure that the Board's meeting date and times are posted correctly on the website.

Election of Officers

Mr. Dunn moved that the current officers, Jay Baldwin and Tom Lippert continue in the respective positions of Chair and Vice Chair. Ms. Jennings seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously in a vote of 5-0. (Mr. Lippert was not present for the voting)

Mail

There was no mail distributed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Watershed Forum (Karen Jennings)

Ms. Jennings reported that the Annapolis Watershed Forum was held on February 9, 2009 and the results of the Annapolis Watershed Action Plan commissioned by the City were presented. The watershed plan was prepared by McCrone, Inc. and addressed impervious cover, open space, tree canopy, and GIS mapping around the four creeks that flow into the Scenic Severn River: Weems, College, Spa and Back Creek. She provided a copy of her typewritten notes from the forum for members to review. She pointed out that the most important issue for the Board is that the plan has a prioritized list of environmental projects by watershed. She further noted that at the meeting, participants were encouraged to commit to an action on behalf of their individual groups. She clarified that the best way that the Board can help is to keep in mind the location of the proposed environmental projects during review of future easements so that informed decisions can be made. She asked members to email her with any questions regarding her notes. Mr. Carr explained that the Watershed Action Plan was also presented to the Planning Commission and he briefly discussed their response to it. He noted that there were 70 participants and 40 commitments made at the Forum. He will email a copy of the watershed forum final report to the Board for review.

GreenScape

Mr. Carr reported that GreenScape Day is scheduled for April 18, 2009 and the plant orders are due March 18, 2009. For the benefit of the new board members, Mr. Carr provided a brief background on GreenScape Day. He noted that there are projects happening throughout the City and invited members to find one to participate in if interested.

Staff Presentation to the Bowie Environmental Commission

Mr. Carr provided a presentation to the Bowie Environmental Commission that is chaired by Gary Allen. At this meeting, he gave an hour-long presentation about the Conservancy Board and its functions. He noted that the presentation was well received. He stated that the City of Bowie does not have zoning authority and it is handled by the Prince Georges County which makes the Bowie situation somewhat different. But the key benefit of a municipal land trust would be to ensure that lands protected under conservation easements are inspected and protected regularly, regardless of who controls zoning.

Kingsport Violations

Mr. Carr provided a copy of an email exchange between the City, the Kingsport Homeowners Association (HOA), and a resident in the community. The resident expressed concern regarding motorcycles trespassing and damaging the conservation area. Mr. Carr noted that the conservation easement signs have not been posted on the property. He and Tom Smith (Planning & Zoning) intend to post signs in the near future. He further noted that the HOA is responsible for enforcement on the property and agreed that after the no trespassing signs have been posted, he will prepare a letter to the HOA, reminding them that enforcement action is needed to address the trespassing issue. The letter will spell out the nature of the violations. He will keep the Board abreast on this issue.

Trail Access Agreements

Mr. Carr explained that the City is rapidly trying to open a critical linkage between the Poplar and Spa Creek trails. He is working with Mr. Elson, a private attorney who works for the City preparing easements, to provide a standard indemnification access agreement between the property owner and the City for future critical links around town where private land owners allow trail access through their property. The access agreement should be available before the next meeting.

Acton Park

Mr. Dunn asked whether the sediment boom that collects oil in Acton Park will be removed. Mr. Carr will check into this and let him know. Mr. Dunn added that this park is a tremendous City resource and is used a lot by the neighborhood and others.

OLD BUSINESS:

St. Luke's Presentation

Mr. Fogle reported that this project is still on hold. Ms. Jennings provided a schematic plan of the area where the Watershed Action plan suggested that there be some seepage wetlands and series of rock pools). Mr. Carr added that the plan identified the location of the three sources of water running through the property and and draining into Back Creek. The City is considering applying for federal stimulus funding for this project and is hoping the Church will support the installation of this environmental feature during its redevelopment of the property.

Posting signs at Kingsport and Village Glen

Mr. Carr will contact Mr. Smith to make arrangements to post signs at these two locations. Mr. Dunn agreed to assist if he is able.

With there being no further business, Mr. Baldwin moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:00pm.

Mr. Fogle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously in a vote 6-0.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 14, 2009 at 5:30pm in City Council Chambers.

Tami Hook, Recorder